

Vol. II.

MAY, 1919

No. 5



Published Monthly by the India Home Rule League of America.  
1400 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

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15c. a copy

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# YOUNG INDIA

MAY, 1919

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

### 1,000,000 Deaths

The Secretary for India states that he has received the following telegram from the Government of India with regard to the recent outbreaks of influenza and cholera in Bombay and in other parts of India:

The first influenza epidemic in Bombay city was in June last, and was responsible for over 1,000 deaths. A subsequent violent outbreak occurred in September, October, and early in November, during which period the mortality in Bombay city exceeded the normal by 14,078. Numerous bacteriological investigations, which measures consisted of treatment in hospitals, home-to-home visitation, free supply of milk and wooden juckets to prevent person-to-person spreading of contagious diseases in several wards and supply of lime disinfectant.

cholera appeared in epidemic form during the second week of December last, and continued till the third week of February. The disease was initially confined to mill districts, and the recent strikes not only aggravated it but prolonged its duration. The deaths reported in Bombay city from cholera during the period number 2,380. In view of the scarcity prevailing in neighboring district steps were taken to mitigate unemployment labor in special camps, etc.

Deaths from influenza in India as a whole in 1918 are calculated at 3,000,000 for British India and 1,000,000 for Indian States.

### Finance

The Manchester Guardian published the following letter which speaks for itself:

The crop failure in India is, perhaps the most distressing of recent. The terrible famine of 1906 has doubtless not yet been forgotten by your readers, and India has certainly not forgotten the great outbreak of peasant sympathy and revolt which has suffering there evoked both in Europe and America. Yet even the famine prices of those days are nothing compared with those now ruling. To quote a few examples: Wheat in the Bombay mill area, in 06 a maund (or present price is 12s. 6d.). Wheat, the staple food in this part of India which was as much as 3s. 6d. then, has now gone up to 10s., and is therefore more, beyond the price of an ordinary man. Rice in this part of India, which then stood at 3s. 6d. (present), these were famine prices, now stand from 7s. 6d. to 10s., while milk, in four times its normal price, and so on.

These incredibly high prices, matched also by the decrease of clothing, fuel, and other necessities, and by the accumulation of holiday has more than a small proportion of the rural have led toward the top of millions of Indians who in some places today have so much to go through or even less. All of the population in a couple of months, and while in many ways there has been an enormous improvement, in several years in the manner condition of the Indian laborer, the property of millions







ancient activities, the following resolutions were passed urging political activity:

**WHITELAND.** Inevitably conditions in India, both political and economic, have been steadily on the decline. The combination of foreign rule and exploitation, and

**WHITELAND.** Many of these Indians have been forced to seek refuge in America, where they have found the only way to their liberation is through the independence of their native land, and have been converted to American ideals and equipped to participate in the solution of our national problems.

**WHITELAND.** These Indians are now being held for deportation or are being deported to India, an action which is tantamount to turning them over to their oppressors in an action which would mean the violation of the American principle of political asylum, granted by the United States since its beginning as a nation, democracy.

It is Resolved, That we, the Friends of Freedom for India, in mass meeting assembled at the Century Opera House, New York City, on April 14th, 1938, do hereby protest against the continued persecution of these Indians by the government and do hereby demand that all proceedings against them, individually and collectively, be discontinued, and further, that a general political amnesty be granted to all political and cultural revolutionaries in India, now at prison or out on bail on political charges, be released on that amnesty.

And it is Also Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Winch at Paris, to the Department of India, and to the Department of State, for the information of the said.

### The Late Dr. Moore

We are very sorry to announce the death of our countryman, Dr. Thomas Moore, who was the President of the New York Chapter of the Hindustani Association of America.

Dr. Moore came from Madras and belonged to a respectable Christian family of that presidency. He did much travelling before he came to America and was considerably versed in the Hindu religion in China and South Africa. He resided in this country and settled down in New York to practice dermatology. He was a very competent and successful practitioner.

and had built up quite a large clientele. In the prime of youth, a congressional and well informed man, patriotic and generous in his impulses, healthy and strong in body and mind, his death was a severe shock to the small colony of Hindus in New York City, which is decidedly poorer by the loss of his services through his death. We offer our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to his widow.

### Reginald Debs

As we go to press we learn that Reginald V. Debs, America's great labor leader, has entered the presidency at West Virginia to serve his term for raising his voice against imperialism and capitalism. May we extend our word of love and sympathy to this sincere and fearless friend of freedom, and our hope that his suffering shall not be in vain.

### The Late Lakh Singh Tibena

Lakh Singh Tibena was a young Punjabi from the Philadelphia district. When he arrived in this country he knew not a word of English, having received his primary education in vernacular. He studied in this country, working his way through, and distinguished himself at the University of California. Mathematics was his specialty. Many a time was he assisted by his professors in composing the answer papers of his fellow students, and many were the praises he received from his instructors. As we were about to go to press we received the sad news of his death. We put the news in the many words of the condolences we have received from his friend, Mrs. Des, of Berkeley, California.

Last midnight when S. and I returned from S. P. we found a letter from Harbuchi awaiting us which informed us that our friend and our brother, Lakh Tibena, had died on April 6th. It was the greatest shock to us, for Lakh had grown very close to us both and was the sincerest and most loyal and honest friend.

"He had voluntarily enlisted in the

army December, 1917, was discharged in January or February of that year (without having served abroad as he had hoped to) and then was employed as a technician in construction work at Pearl Harbor, the naval station of Hawaii. On April 4th, at 5:15 in the afternoon, while having some electric work, he caught hold of a live wire and fell, upon releasing it, to the concrete floor 25 feet below him, fracturing his skull and breaking one leg. He died next morning.

"I am heartbroken about his dying all alone in a hospital, unable even to express what his wishes he now have had. I would have given anything to be near him at that time."

### A Personal Tribute

I first met Tibena in the summer of 1913 when I visited California and discussed a deep affection for him. He was one of the purest, noblest and truest Hindusthanis I ever came in contact with in this country. In 1925, when I returned from Japan, I again met him. He was suffering from tuberculosis and I offered him money for treatment and rest. He said he would rather do that accept pecuniary help from me considering that all that I had had been accustomed for the service of the Motherland. I was rather hurt by his reply and pressed him. He promised to write me and I was he needed my help. He never wrote and thus is the only news I have heard of him since.

Tibena was born of poor parents in a rather obscure village. His people were petty farmers. He was a born philosopher. Every bit of him was far from luxury, beauty and country. He was a peasant in the city, yet he hated talking of patriotism and patriotism about ourselves. He was a friend of friends and a very congenial companion. He had high ambitions of serving his country and his death at a great loss to India. In a foreign land, with no friends near he died—he died under the most heartrending circumstances, but he has not died "knowing unhonored and alone." For I

am a story that not only his personal friends, of whom he had many, but his countrymen at general will also weep for their loss.

LALITA RAO

### Two Hindustani Indians Dead

With great regret we announce the death of two distinguished and wholly worthy countrymen of ours, both of them, Mr. H. M. Agre and Mr. H. G. Lyons. The latter was recognized by everyone as the father of modern Marathi drama. The former was a professor at the Ferguson College. Our respectful sympathies are extended to the families and friends of the deceased.

### Ranasingh's Life

In an interview published in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, Ranasingh Ranasingh is reported to have said that, speaking at the Irish Convention, I said that India wanted to go out of the British Empire and that I had telegraphed to Secretary of State Lansing that I wanted the United States Government to help India get her complete independence from England. Rank of these statements are absolutely false and malicious. Ranasingh, according to the news report, was saying that he is in favor of Home Rule.

LALITA RAO

### "King" George

It doesn't take much of a memory to recall the time when Europe was all cluttered up with Czar and Kaiser, King and Lord, holding what seemed to be steady jobs at good pay. And now, behold! They're all gone, except one. There is one Kaiser left—Kaiser Hind, His Royal Majesty, George V., by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain and Ireland—especially Ireland—and Emperor of India. Harry-Potter stand up!

—(New York City)

## LEAGUE'S ACTIVITIES

From the various letters and press clippings which we have been receiving about the work of our New York representatives, Dr M. S. Bhambhani, who is traveling in the States at the Middle West, it is abundantly evident that the cause of India is gaining many friends and supporters. Evangelist Dr Hardiker has been given a hearing, has been asked to speak again and again, and has been pledged the support of one organization after another in his work. One of the foremost perceptions was recorded here at the Labor Convention at St. Louis, namely of which sympathy elsewhere. The significant feature of the movement, for India, was the adoption in the platform of the Illinois Labor Party of the principle of self-determination for India, as has been done by the British Labor Party in England.

But India has not been the only supporter of India's freedom. Many and varied organizations—educational, political, religious—have pledged to Dr Hardiker their assistance and have given thoughtful proof of their sympathy for the educational enlightenment of Americans with regard to India's condition under British rule.

At an address before the Fabian Club of Chicago the following resolution was unanimously passed:

Whereas President Wilson has promulgated the principles of the rights of small nations as the foundation of democracy, and

Whereas, We sincerely hope that this principle may prevail not only for peoples outside of the United States but for subject nations within the empire of these Governments;

Be It Resolved, That the Fabian Club of Chicago demand the right of self-determination for the people of India.

The St. Louis Society of Friends

for Irish Freedom gave Dr Hardiker a rousing welcome, and at the close of his address, passed a similar resolution, which was forwarded to us with the accompanying letter:

Dear Sir,  
We take great pleasure in advising you that in appreciation of the splendid and masterly address delivered by Dr M. S. Bhambhani before the meeting of the Friends of Irish Freedom held in St. Louis March 25th the enclosed resolution is forwarded to you.

That fullest sympathy and support be extended to the people of India for the revival of the Home Rule movement."

At the convention of the Illinois Labor Party the following resolution was passed:

Whereas, India, the largest subject nation in the world, has intensely suffered and is suffering under the rule of an autocratic alien power which claims to have fought in the recent war for liberty and justice, and

Whereas, The people of the United States entered the war to crush such autocracies and make the world safe for democracy by applying the principle of self-determination to all countries, large or small, rich or poor, and

Whereas, This labor party looks forward to the establishment of a league of workers of all nations pledged and organized to enforce the destruction of autocracy, militarism and economic imperialism throughout the world;

Be It Resolved, Therefore, That we, the delegates of the Labor Party of the State of Illinois, assembled in a State Convention held on April 11, 1918, at Springfield, Illinois, hereby pledge our support to India's struggle for autonomy and freedom, and that we endorse the principle of self-determination for India. In our party program, and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon the President and Congress of the

United States of America to urge the Paris Conference now in session in Paris to apply to India the great doctrine of self-determination.

The scope of Dr Hardiker's lecture field may be gauged, to some extent, by the following lists of organizations and gatherings which he has addressed:

At Chicago he spoke before  
The Fabian Club,  
The Irish Fellowship Club,  
The Hebrew Institute,  
The Workers' Institute,  
The Theosophical Society,  
The Unitarian Church,  
and conferred with Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, members of the Socialist Party, the Labor Party of Chicago, and with prominent labor and social leaders at private gatherings.

At Minneapolis and St. Paul he spoke at the  
Unitarian Church,  
Socialist Club,  
Women's Welfare League,  
Theosophical Society

At Anderson, Indiana, before the Socialist Party, at Peoria, Illinois, before the Memory Extension League, at Richmond, Indiana, before the Rotary Club and the Polity Club, at Carlebury, Illinois, before the students of Blackburn College, at Middletown before the Theosophical Society (those lectures), and at a public gathering of three thousand.

Before returning to New York Dr Hardiker intended to cover North Dakota, the entire State of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio. The work which he has done in the interim has already proved to be highly commendable and deserves our warmest praise.

### Rough Proceedings

At a meeting of the Berkeley Branch of the India Home Rule League of America on the 28th of March, at the Sheraton Hotel, Berkeley, Mr. L. J. de Sores, an Indo-Portuguese, who lately arrived from India, gave a talk

on the "Hindu Students in Politics." He expounded the attitude of the Government of India towards these students and teachers who dared show any love for their motherland, and pointed out the day-in-the-manger policy of the Government in depriving every institution that was started by private enterprise to educate the masses on a national basis. He cited cases wherever such institutions had been arbitrarily suppressed by the Government and spoke about the attitude of the Government towards students and teachers who had been arrested, menacing arrest of cruel persecution and harassment of young boys, which, in some cases, he said, was so cruel that some of the students had been led to commit suicide.

Miss Mary K. Neff, who is at Berkeley now, after a seven years' stay in India, told her knowledge of the horrible treatment of the Indian youths, of the thousands of boys that were castrated on the mere suspicion of having taken part in political agitation. She further emphasized the thirty-one cases which had been published by Mrs. Besant as a threat to the Government, and a copy of which she said, had been sent to President Wilson.

Dr S. H. Pomeroy, the president of the branch, in recognizing up urged the necessity of Americans joining hands with those who were bravely struggling to loosen the hold of the benighted rule over India. He also expressed regret at the death of H. T. Toller, a member of the League club, he said, was one of the true patriots persecuted for their living protests.

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the India Home Rule League of America a report of Dr Hardiker's work was read and approved and a unanimous vote of thanks was tendered him. Great appreciation was expressed by the Council officers.













votes counting both proxy and written votes.

These provisions are made for branch organizations:

1. Seven members of the League living in any locality or America outside of the League's headquarters, can organize a branch after securing the sanction of the Council.

2. When the branch is sanctioned, the members should elect their own officers and frame suitable by-laws, subject to the approval of the Council.

The officers for 1919, elected at the annual convention held in December, 1918, are:

President—Lajpat Rai.

Vice-President—Dr. J. T. Sunderland.

Executive Secretary—Dr. N. S. Hardwar.

Organizing Secretary—Dr. K. D. Shastri.

Treasurer—Lajpat Rai.

Executive Councilors—Miss Henrietta Rodman, Mr. R. K. Khemka, Mr. J. A. Setra, Mr. R. W. Huebner, Mr. A. P. Warrington, Mr. R. S. Jam, Mr. H. H. Ahmed, Mr. D. S. V. Rao, Mr. K. D. Bhoseker, Mr. B. K. Singha.

Mr. P. D. Saksarsala has once been elected Second Vice-President of the League.

Up to date the following branches have been organized: +

Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Berkeley, California.

Chicago, Illinois.

Cleveland, Ohio.

Columbus, Ohio.

Indianapolis, Indiana.

Kansas City, Missouri.

Louisville, Kentucky.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The work of the League has been along educational lines, by lecture work, writings, and dissemination of news and information about India. Publicity work has been undertaken largely by the India Home Rule League—the publication of *Young India* and of literature and circulars relating to India's condition.

The India Information Bureau, a branch of the India Home Rule League of America, has been recently started with the following objects:

To furnish reliable information of all kinds about India—political, educational, commercial, etc.

To serve as a publicity and advertising medium between India and the United States.

To supply teachers of Hindi languages and Hindu topics in general.

To supply lecturers on subjects relating to India and arrange lectures.

To provide a reading room furnishing all Hindu newspapers and magazines; and a library of books on India.

To undertake translations from and into Hindi languages.

To teach English to workmen of Hindu origin in America with a view to increase their efficiency and to make them better American citizens.

It has published up to date two bulletins of the latest news from India and sent them to about 250 newspapers and magazines in this country. The officers of the Bureau are: Mr. Lajpat Rai, Director, and Mr. Ram Kumar Khemka, Assistant Director.

In conjunction with the publication of *YOUNG INDIA*, the League conducts a bookshop, specializing on books relating to India, to Russia, and to Asiatic politics in general. The profit derived from the sale of books is for the upkeep of the League.

Subscription to *Young India* is \$1.50 per year. To members, \$1.00. Subscriptions are included in the active and associate membership fees.